

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 712

To amend title 39, United States Code, to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for highway-rail grade crossing safety through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 1999

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BREAU, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for highway-rail grade crossing safety through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Look, Listen, and Live
5 Stamp Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMPS TO BENEFIT HIGHWAY-**
 2 **RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United
 4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 414 the
 5 following:

6 **“§414a. Special postage stamps for highway-rail**
 7 **grade crossing safety**

8 “(a) In order to afford the public a convenient way
 9 to contribute to funding for highway-rail grade crossing
 10 safety, the Postal Service shall establish a special rate of
 11 postage for first-class mail under this section.

12 “(b) The rate of postage established under this
 13 section—

14 “(1) shall be equal to the regular first-class rate
 15 of postage, plus a differential of not to exceed 25
 16 percent;

17 “(2) shall be set by the Governors in accord-
 18 ance with such procedures as the Governors shall by
 19 regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under
 20 chapter 36); and

21 “(3) shall be offered as an alternative to the
 22 regular first-class rate of postage.

23 “(c) The use of the special rate of postage established
 24 under this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal
 25 patrons.

1 “(d)(1) Amounts becoming available for highway-rail
2 grade crossing safety under this section shall be paid by
3 the Postal Service to the Department of Transportation
4 for Operation Lifesaver. Payments under this section shall
5 be made under such arrangements as the Postal Service
6 shall by mutual agreement with the Department of Trans-
7 portation establish in order to carry out the purposes of
8 this section, except that, under those arrangements, pay-
9 ments to the Department of Transportation shall be made
10 at least twice a year.

11 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘amounts
12 becoming available for highway-rail grade crossing safety
13 under this section’ means—

14 “(A) the total amounts received by the Postal
15 Service that the Postal Service would not have re-
16 ceived but for the enactment of this section, reduced
17 by

18 “(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable
19 costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out
20 this section, including those attributable to the
21 printing, sale, and distribution of stamps under this
22 section,

23 as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that
24 it shall prescribe.

1 “(e) It is the sense of Congress that nothing in this
2 section should—

3 “(1) directly or indirectly cause a net decrease
4 in total funds received by the Department of Trans-
5 portation for Operation Lifesaver below the level
6 that would otherwise have been received but for the
7 enactment of this section; or

8 “(2) affect regular first-class rates of postage
9 or any other regular rates of postage.

10 “(f) Special postage stamps under this section shall
11 be made available to the public beginning on such date
12 as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but in
13 no event later than 12 months after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this section.

15 “(g) The Postmaster General shall include in each
16 report rendered under section 2402 with respect to any
17 period during any portion of which this section is in effect
18 information, concerning the operation of this section, ex-
19 cept that, at a minimum, each report shall include—

20 “(1) the total amount described in subsection
21 (d)(2)(A) which was received by the Postal Service
22 during the period covered by such report; and

23 “(2) of the amount under paragraph (1), how
24 much (in the aggregate and by category) was re-

1 quired for the purposes described in subsection
2 (d)(2)(B).

3 “(h) This section shall cease to be effective at the
4 end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which
5 special postage stamps under this section are first made
6 available to the public.”.

7 (b) REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF
8 THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 3 months (but not
9 earlier than 6 months) before the end of the 2-year period
10 referred to in section 414a(h) of title 39, United States
11 Code (as amended by subsection (a)), the Comptroller
12 General of the United States shall submit to Congress a
13 report on the operation of such section. Such report shall
14 include—

15 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness and the
16 appropriateness of the authority provided by such
17 section as a means of fundraising; and

18 (2) a description of the monetary and other re-
19 sources required of the Postal Service in carrying
20 out such section.

21 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
23 for chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is
24 amended by striking the item relating to section 414
25 and inserting the following:

“414. Special postage stamps for breast cancer research.

“414a. Special postage stamps for highway-rail grade crossing safety.”.

1 (2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for sec-
2 tion 414 of title 39, United States Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:
4 **“§ 414. Special postage stamps for breast cancer re-**
5 **search”.**

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